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The President's Daily Brief

30 March 1971

49

~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 March 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, the Communists' spring campaign is gathering momentum. *(Page 1)*

The current situation in East Pakistan is assessed on *Page 2*.

Egypt 50X1

(Page 3)

President Allende apparently will try to replace the present congress if his coalition wins a majority in Chile's municipal elections next Sunday. *(Page 4)*

China *(Page 5)* 50X1

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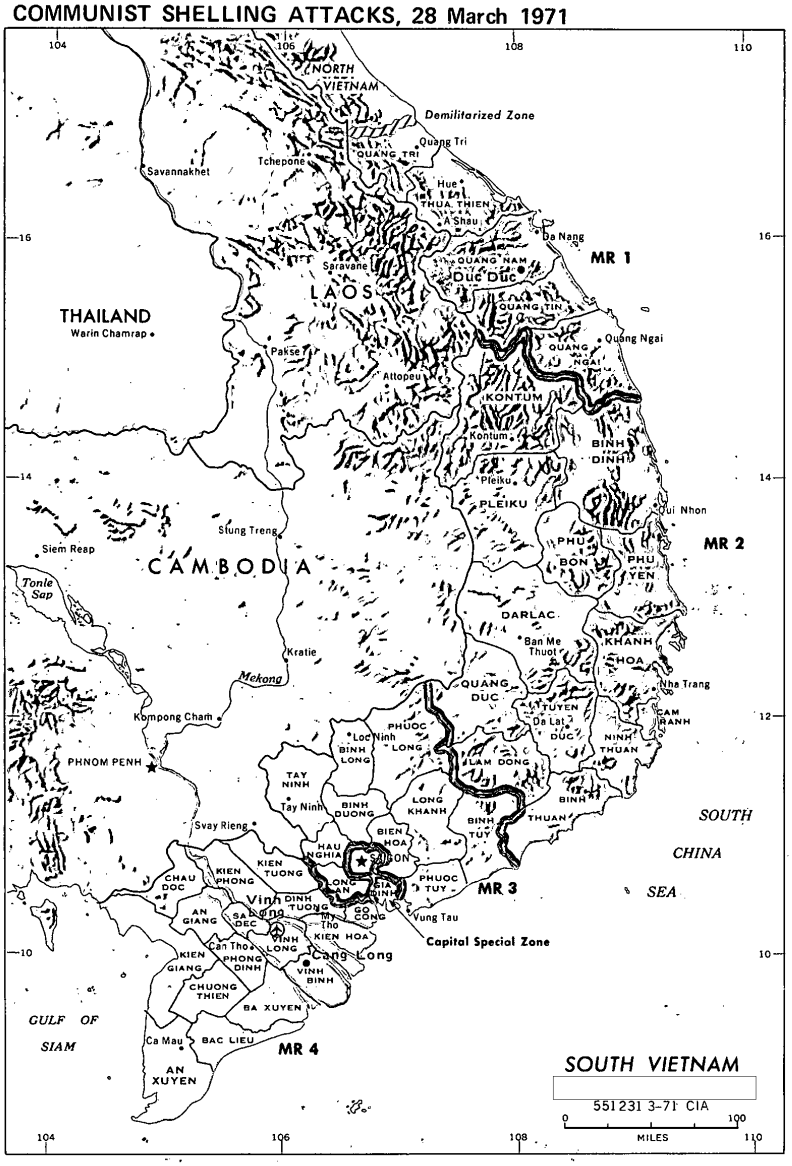
COMMUNIST SHELLING ATTACKS, 28 March 1971



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SOUTH VIETNAM

Enemy forces followed up their weekend attacks in the northern provinces by hitting Duc Duc, a district seat in Quang Nam Province, early yesterday. Following a heavy mortar barrage, the town's weakened defenses were breached by the attackers. Thirteen South Vietnamese were killed, 21 wounded, and 100 homes burned.

The Communists' spring campaign also is spreading to the Mekong Delta. Cang Long, a district town in Vinh Binh Province, was hit hard on Sunday. Following a 200-round mortar and grenade attack, an enemy force--probably a battalion of the Viet Cong D-3 Regiment--struck the town, killing 45 and wounding 72. The attackers left six of their dead behind. Other enemy attacks in the delta on 28-29 March included a 20-round mortar bombardment of a South Vietnamese regimental command post and a light shelling of the Vinh Long airfield. Enemy forces in this area have been lying low for most of the past year, employing tactics designed to conserve their personnel strength and supplies.

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PAKISTAN

Widely conflicting reports continue to obscure the situation in East Pakistan. It appears that disorder continues in much of the province, and even if government claims of holding the cities are true, it is unlikely that the military yet controls the countryside. 50X1

In the meantime, pressure continues to mount in India for intervention. Mrs. Gandhi--in response to popular sentiment--has agreed to move a parliamentary motion of support for the "freedom struggle" in East Pakistan. 50X1

[redacted] there is no indication that current plans call for more than moral support for the East Pakistanis. India is also sounding out members of the UN Security Council about an emergency meeting and has asked U Thant to issue a statement of concern. Thant has declined to comment at this time and has indicated that a Security Council meeting would "pose difficult problems." 50X1

In West Pakistan, the press continues to charge the US with favoring East Pakistani independence. It cites Voice of America broadcasts specifically.

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UN - MIDDLE EAST

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHILE

[redacted] said that a victory would enable him to call for a plebiscite within three months on the question of substituting a unicameral "people's assembly" for the present bicameral congress in which his coalition has a minority. Such a change was called for in Allende's campaign platform, and he has the legal tools to resort to a plebiscite under constitutional reforms passed in 1969. 50X1

[redacted] Allende expressed a desire for revenge against some leaders of the Christian Democratic Party, which holds 75 of the 200 seats in congress, for their recent strong attacks against him and his government. Allende blamed the "sluggish performance" of his administration partially on its multiparty structure, but praised the Communist Party as the most cooperative and efficient member of his coalition. 50X1

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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NOTES

Communist China: 50X1

USSR-Egypt: There have now been 32 flights carrying military equipment since the Soviet airlift to Egypt began on 4 March. Six were performed by Moscow's largest transport, the AN-22, and the remainder by AN-12s. The unprecedented use of the AN-22 in a military airlift outside the USSR suggests that bulky new equipment is involved.

Turkey: The new government headed by political moderate Nihat Erim is certain to get an overwhelming vote of confidence from Parliament. The government has been described by some observers as a "brain trust" cabinet because it consists largely of professional experts; none of the ten representatives from the largest political parties is a key political figure. The naming, as ministers of state, of two former army officers who played roles in the 1960 military revolution will permit continuing close military supervision of the government; one of them is to be deputy prime minister. Erim has stated that there will be no change in Turkey's foreign policy.

Bolivia: 50X1

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